

Remarks/Arguments:

It was asserted that there was no support in the specification for the recitation of "a contact pressure of said first contact portion is stronger than a contact pressure of said contact portion" in claims 1, 16, and 23. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

However, to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 16, and 23 have been amended to recite a strong contact portion and a weak contact portion. Claims 2, 17, 18, 24, and 25 have been amended to recite language consistent with the amended claim language of claims 1, 16, and 23. Support for these amendments is found in original claims 1, 16, and 23, and in original claims 2, 17, 18, 24, and 25. It is submitted that no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

As shown by the specification, the strong contact portion has a higher contact pressure than the weak contact portion. See, for example:

Accordingly, a strong contact portion having a locally strong contact pressure and a weak contact portion having a weak contact pressure are intentionally formed by deforming the opening end of the filter. Thus, at the strong contact portion, the bend portion of the filter locally bites into the flange surface of the cap.

Specification, page 18, lines 6-12 (emphasis added).

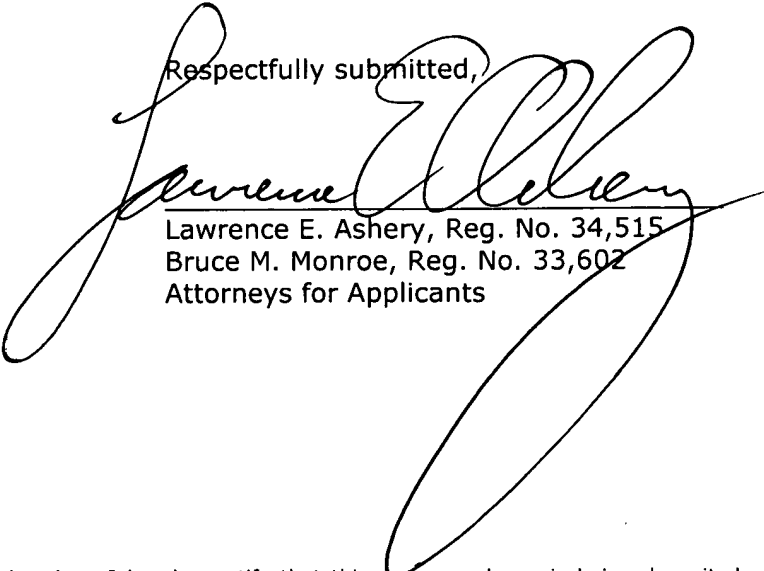
Therefore, the meaning and scope of the claims is not changed by this amendment. The strong contact portion has a higher contact pressure than the weak contact portion.

Application No.: 09/980,880
Amendment Dated: December 2, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of: September 2, 2005

MAT-8189US

This amendment is being made to overcome an objection made by the Examiner and to simplify the issues to be considered on appeal. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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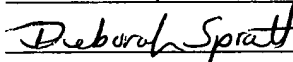
Dated: December 2, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 2, 2005



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